

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting a perilymph fistula, which comprises detecting the existence of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, an N-terminal fragment of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, or a 16 kDa N-terminal fragment of Cochlin in body fluid existing in the middle ear, and using the detected existence of Cochlin as an indicator of a perilymph fistula, wherein the with an antibody which recognizes an antigenic determinant contained in amino acids 36 to 127 of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 1; and

using the detected existence of the p63 isoform of Cochlin, the N-terminal fragment of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, or the 16 kDa N-terminal fragment of Cochlin as an indicator of a perilymph fistula detection of the existence of Cochlin is carried out by detecting the existence of a protein consisting of:

an N-terminal fragment of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, or

a 16kDa N-terminal fragment of Cochlin recognized by an anti-Cochlin N-terminal fragment antibody.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, which comprises detecting the existence of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, an N-terminal fragment of a p63 isoform of Cochlin, or a 16 kDa N-terminal fragment of Cochlin in body fluid existing in the middle ear of a patient likely to have a perilymph fistula, and using the detected existence of Cochlin as an indicator of a perilymph fistula.

3. – 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1[[4]], wherein the immunological method is carried out by using an anti-Cochlin N-terminal fragment antibody

characterized in that it recognizes an antigenic determinant contained in a polypeptide having
consisting of the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, 5, 6, or 7 of the sequence listing.

8. - 13. (Cancelled)